

PATENT

Application Serial No. 09/368,469
Amendment dated January 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2003
Docket No. 1232-4554

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Objection

The specification has been objected to because of informalities. The Examiner indicates that the term "some reasons" in page 3, line 3 should be replaced with -- some reason --, and there should be a space between ""camera1.wvp"" and "width=480" in page 27.

The specification has been corrected as required by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-64 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 are independent. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 18-22, 24-26, 35-39, 41, 46-50, 52-54, 63 and 64 are rejected. Claims 6, 10-17, 23, 27-34, 40, 42-45, 51 and 55-62 are objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 10, 19, 27, 36, 42, 47 and 55 are herein amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

In paragraph three (3) of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-9, 18-22, 24-26, 35-39, 41, 46-50, 52-54, 63 and 64 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,133,941 to Ono ("Ono") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,721 to Donahue et al. ("Donahue").

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Independent claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 have been amended to include portions of limitation recited in claims 10, 27, 42 and 55, respectively which have been indicated as including allowable subject matter. For example, claim 1 as amended recites that "... after restoring the communication within a predetermined period, conditions of said image sensing apparatus are restored to conditions at the time of the undesired termination, and said image reception apparatus is allowed to continuously control said image sensing apparatus under the restored conditions." Other independent claims (i.e., claims 19, 36 and 47) as amended include similar limitation. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 as amended are patentably distinct from the art of record.

According to the system as featured in amended claims 1, 19, 36 and 47, when the communication between the image reception apparatus having an authorization to control the image sensing apparatus and the image transmission apparatus is undesirably terminated due to, for example, a problem in a communication path, and if the communication is restored within a predetermined period, the conditions (e.g., pan angle, tilt angle, zoom ratio etc.) of the image sensing apparatus are restored to those at the time of the undesired termination. Then, the image reception apparatus is allowed to control the image sensing apparatus. Since the conditions are restored before the image reception apparatus is allowed to control the image sensing apparatus, the image reception can start controlling the image sensing apparatus set to the conditions that the image reception apparatus had controlled at the time of the undesired termination even if the conditions of the image sensing apparatus have been changed during the termination.

Applicants note that Ono discloses a camera control authority in which the clients 101a

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and 101b display the camera control authority status such as wait time before the clients can acquire the camera control authority. Applicants also note that Ono discloses transmitting images sensed by the camera 11a to the clients 101a and 101b. There is nothing in Ono, however, that discloses a situation where an undesired termination of the communication occurs.

Donahue discloses monitoring the network to determine if the availability of the receiver has regained after the network link is interrupted. When the receiver regains the availability, the sender resumes the terminated data transmission to the receiver via the network. However, Donahue also does not disclose restoring the conditions of the image sensing apparatus to those at the time of the interruption of the network as specifically required by claim 1 as amended.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that each of claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 as amended is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Ono and Donahue, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 19, 36 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants however reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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AUTHORIZATION

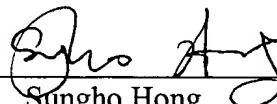
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4554). **A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.**

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 6, 2004

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